

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2554

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RP

SUBJECT: MRS. MARCOS ON ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSION?

1. PRESS REPORTS APRIL 23 THAT MRS. MARCOS "SLIPPED INTO" HONG KONG EVENING OF APRIL 21. CLOSETED IN HOTEL ENTIRE DAY (APRIL 22) SHE REPORTEDLY MET WITH OFFICIALS OF CHINA STATE TRADING COMPANY AND VICE DIRECTOR OF NCNA IN HONG KONG. NATURE OF TALKS UNSPECIFIED.

2. MRS. MARCOS IS ALLEGEDLY VISITING HK FOR "BRIEF REST" AFTER HER TRIP TO JAKARTA WHERE SHE CONVEYED HER HUSBAND'S PROPOSAL FOR AN URGENT ASEAN MEETING TO PRESIDENT SUHARTO. NEIGHER LABORSEC OPLE, WHO IS TRAVELING WITH MRS. MARCOS, NOR INFOSEC TATAD WHO FLEW TO HK "UNEXPECTEDLY" FROM MANILA WOULD COMMENT TO PRESS ON MRS. MARCOS'S STAY. PRESS ATTRIBUTES TO "HONG KONG OBSERVERS" OBSERVATION THAT IN VIEW SUCCESSION OF SPECIAL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MARCOS HAD LATELY ENTRUSTED TO HER, HK VISIT COULD NOT POSSIBLY BE "INCIDENTAL."

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW RECENT GOP ANNOUNCEMENT OF EFFORT TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH DRV, MRS. MARCOS CONCEIVABLY MIGHT BE ATTEMPTING TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH HER CHINESE INTERLOCUTORS OR WITH ANY AVAILABLE DRV REPRESENTATIVES. SHE COULD ALSO BE DISCUSSING HER HUSBAND'S FORTH-
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COMING TRIP TO PRC (WHICH IS WHAT UPI HK REPORTED APRIL 23).

ALTHOUGH EXPLANATION OF HONG KONG VISIT COULD AS WELL
SIMPLY BE SHOPPING, WE CAN EXPECT THAT LOCAL PRESS WILL
SEEK TO ADD DIMENSION OF MYSTERY AND DIPLOMATIC AURA TO MRS.
MARCOS' EVERY MOVE ABROAD.
SULLIVAN

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